

Rural District of Louth.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

The Year 1946.

PRINTED BY
T. E. WIGGEN AND SON, LTD.
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To the Chairman and Members of the Louth Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for 1946.

The vital statistics show the Birth and Death Rates satisfactory in comparison with the general rates for the Country as a whole. The birth rate is the second highest recorded in the district for many years and the death rate, though fractionally higher than last year, shares with that year the record of being the lowest rate for the district for 17 years: The deaths for persons under the age of 65 were 31% of the total. The particular rates in all instances were better than the corresponding ones for England and Wales.

Being a year free from epidemics the infectious disease notifications were smaller than usual and there was no increase in the notifications for any particular disease. This has been the first time for many years that a case of diphtheria was not notified,

The improvement in the diphtheria immunisations returns is to be noted, due to better facilities for treatment. For Boost doses, concentration was made on children under the age of 10 years and the response was satisfactory.

The sections dealing with Sanitary matters call for little comment during these periods of marking time while awaiting development of the major schemes of planning. During the year the schemes advanced a further stage through the administrative ritual, and the water schemes, affecting three particular parishes, had arrived at the stage of being ready for work to start. Time will decide what practical meaning the latter words have.

The Housing Survey figures for the year cannot be regarded as satisfactory. For all practical purposes it would seem that the survey was only regularly done over a period of about $8\frac{1}{2}$ months, and for some $3\frac{1}{2}$ months of this time without an assistant.

The Department suffered the loss of an excellent Assistant Sanitary Inspector by the resignation of Mr. H. Longworth. Mr. J. P. Smith who had been engaged full time on the Rural Housing Survey was promoted to fill the vacancy.

It seems opportune to point out the tremendous increase in the administrative work connected with approval of plans and the issue of building licences and permits for materials, which tends to interfere with the general routine supervision of Sanitary matters.

I welcome this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the help and consideration which have at all times been accorded to me.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. KERRIGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1947.

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions for the Year 1946.

Public Health Officers:

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor:

S. SHONE, A.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assist. Building Surveyor:

H. LONGWORTH, A.R. San. I.

(Resigned 30/11/46)

Additional Sanitary Inspector engaged full time on Rural
Housing Survey:

J. P. SMITH, A.R. San. I.

Milk and Dairies Inspector (Part Time):

A. H. ADAMS, M.R.C.V.S.

SECTION A.

Social Conditions and Statistics.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Rural District in Acres	...	...	153,129
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid 1946	...	...	16,570
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	5,239
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses 1946	...	...	£32,765
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£232

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	292	153	139
Illegitimate	26	13	13

318	166	152
-----	-----	-----

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	1	1	—

6	3	3
---	---	---

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	19.2 (19.1)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of all births	19 (53)

Deaths.

Total.	Male.	Female.
194	91	103

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	11.7 (11.5)
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29
and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) 1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes as rate per 1,000 total births	3 (31)
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Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	22 (43)
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(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	24
--	----

(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
--	-----

(Bracketed figures show the corresponding
rates for England and Wales)

Deaths from Measles (all ages) total	Nil
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) total	1
---	---

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2
---------------------------------------	---

Causes of Death in Infants under one year of age :—

Prematurity	...	3	
Acute Gastro-Enteritis	...	2	
Spina Bifida	...	1	
Violence	...	1	Total 7

Ages at Death.

Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75 85	85/95	Total
	7	2	1	2	6	6	14	23	44	60	29	194

Deaths from Cancer. Male 13. Female 19.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services of the Area.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

There was no change from those mentioned in report of last year. The facilities continue both economical and satisfactory.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

There were no complaints regarding the services provided, which continue the same as other years. These facilities seem adequate for ordinary needs.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

For the purposes of general home and maternity nursing there are 6 District Nurses available in the Rural area.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There have been no extension of these services in the area by the County Council during the year and it is understood there is no prospect of such owing to the difficulty of obtaining medical and nursing staff. It is a pity that better services were not made available when these scarcities did not exist.

Hospitals.

The two Louth Borough General Hospitals receive the majority of patients, but Grimsby General and Alford Cottage Hospitals admit cases from areas adjacent to them.

Infectious disease cases, other than Tuberculosis, are sent to Grimsby Corporation or Osgodby Isolation Hospitals, through the bed reservation agreement by the Council with the North East Lindsey Joint Hospital Board. The majority of the cases are sent to the former hospital which does not limit the admissions to particular types of disease.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

Water Supply.

The following shows the number of Samples taken during the year with the results of bacteriological examinations :—

Source	No. of Samples	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Gross Pollution
Binbrook (Public Supply)	13	12	1	—	—
Grimoldby (Public Supply)	12	12	—	—	—
Harvest Camp Sites	2	—	2	—	—
New Housing Sites					
Trial bores	8	1	4	2	1
Private Supplies					
Bores and Shallow Wells					
(a) Donington-on-Bain, Village Wells	14		1	6	7
(b) Others	11	2	3	3	3
Totals	60	27	11	11	11

As can be seen from the results in the Appendix, the chemical analysis confirms the very satisfactory quality of the public supplies.

The results of the analyses of the private supplies provide the contrast. Even if these cannot be regarded as representative of the private supplies of the district, the results of other years lend support to the belief that they provide a fair indication. Unfortunately many of the dairy farms have to contend with this great handicap of contaminated supplies which add to the difficulties of clean milk production.

The schemes for the supply of water to the Parishes of Holton-le-Clay, Ludford and Stewton having passed through the stages of official approvals and submission for Tenders were in the Contractors' hands ready for work to start when materials would become available.

As a result of the Public Enquiry held 1.X.46. following the Council's submission that the water scheme for Donington-on-Bain parish demanded special operative urgency, the Ministry of Health approved the application subject to the proposed supply being satisfactory.

During the year, also, the major scheme for the supply of water to the whole of the Rural District was prepared by the Council's consulting engineer and submitted to the Ministry of Health and the Lindsey County Council

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council's general sewage disposal scheme for the entire area was submitted to the Ministry during the year.

Binbrook and Manby Sewage Disposal Works.

There were no alterations or special attention needed for these during the year and they were reported as functioning satisfactorily. The results of analyses of 4 samples of effluent from Binbrook works and 2 from Manby works showed all were of satisfactory standard, apart from containing a slight excess of suspended matter.

Sewers.

250 Yds. of 9in. sewer were laid in North Thoresby in the endeavour to overcome the gross flooding troubles associated with heavy rainfall. The need of a proper sewage system for this village is too well known for detailed mention.

Closets.

No information is available regarding the number of houses in the District with privy vaults, pail closets, chemical or water closets. No conversions to water system were reported.

House Refuse Collection.

During the year a regular fortnightly collection was in operation over 11 parishes, which included three parishes where the householders require to carry the refuse to the Council's dustbins sited at convenient points. The Sanitary Inspector obtained the Council's approval for an extension of collection facilities over seven additional parishes to become operable in 1947.

It seems likely that other villages not yet included will expect similar servicing when that is practicable.

Nuisances.

Total number of Nuisances during the year .—

(1)	Abated as a result of informal action by the Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	62
(2)	Reported to Council, Statutory Notice issued	...	...	...	1
	Reported to Council, Statutory Notice not issued	...	...	...	Nil

SECTION D.

Housing.

Total Number of New Houses Erected during the year:—

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	8
(2) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	9

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 330

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 358

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 1,035

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 1,076

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 1

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 767

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 60

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts ;—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 1

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	... ..	1
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV), Overcrowding:—

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	unable to state
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	4
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	4
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	

Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, &c.

Number inspected during the year.	37
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Remarks.

Eight out of 10 of the Swedish timber houses were completed by the end of the year but work had not yet started on the 46 permanent houses.

Certain immediate repairs and building adjustments required to be carried out to make the camp sites habitable which were forcibly taken over by some 47 Squatter families. The maintenance and supervision of these absorbed considerable time.

Rural Housing Survey.

Total number of houses surveyed during the year:—

2 Men	Jan. 1st—March 31st	...	563
1 Man	Apr. 1st—Aug. 31st	...	289
1 Man and Youth	Sept. 1st—Nov. 30th	...	179
Total			1031

The progress of this survey can hardly be regarded with satisfaction. At the 1946 rate it would not be completed for another couple of years.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Bakehouses.

Number in the district	...	10
Number of underground bakehouses	...	Nil
Number of Inspections	...	16
Contraventions of the Factory Acts	...	Nil
Defects remedied	...	4

*Cowsheds.

Number on register	...	657
Number of Inspections	...	1242
Contraventions of regulations	...	33
Contraventions remedied	...	33
Number of milch cows in district	...	4000 approx.

*Dairies and Milkshops.

Number on register	...	121
Number of Inspections	...	456
Contraventions of regulations	...	Nil
Contraventions remedied	...	Nil
Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	...	Nil

(*As reported by Milk and Dairies Inspector).

Milk Supply.

Results of examinations of samples :—

Type	Satisfactory Examinations	Unsatisfactory Examinations	Sampling Authority
Tuberculin Tested	8	3	Lindsey C.C.
Accredited	35	10	Lindsey C.C.
Ungraded	No examinations		Louth R.D.C.

In the District there are now 6 Registered Producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and 22 of Accredited.

Knowing little about ungraded milk production in the District, I am unable to make any comment.

Ice Cream.

During the year the retail sale of ice cream restarted after the war interval. Samples were taken from five manufacturers and one retailer of the pre packed product manufactured by a well known London firm. A total of only 11 samples were sent for bacteriological examination the results of which did not indicate a very satisfactory state of production. In view of the fact that these were the first

samples taken in the district, so far as records shows, a high standard was not anticipated.

Following the preliminary sampling, a circular letter was sent to each producer advising him of precautions to be observed in production methods to serve as a basis for elaboration by the Sanitary Inspector during his visits. These directions anticipated the Official Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947, which has since been issued.

More frequent sampling and follow up inspections than have been done in this and other years seem very necessary.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1946

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	9	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	9	—	—
Erysipelas	4	2	—
Chicken Pox	12	—	—
Dysentery Sonnei	—	—	—
Measles	18	—	—
Whooping Cough	9	—	—
C.S. Meningitis	1	—	—
Encephalitis	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Totals	64	6	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children Immunised during the year :

1— 4 years (incl) including those done privately	313 (195)
5—14 years	105 (19)
Number of Boost Doses	373 (Nil)

Estimated percentage of children Immunised in the area.

1— 4 years (incl.) 88% (89)

5—14 years (incl.) 92% (88)

Below is brief set out of the results of a survey at the end of the year for the 33 Elementary 8schools in the District :—

Percentage Immunised	100	100/95	95/90	90/85	85/80	80/75	Under 75
No. of Schools	13(3)	5(5)	7(5)	6(11)	1(2)	1(5)	Nil (2)

(Bracketed figures refer to totals for 1945)

Remarks.

The total immunisations showed a marked increase on the returns for 1945 in both age groups, and also the under five years figures stand in very satisfactory relation to the 1945 Births (285). The drop in percentage immunised in the latter group is due to the peak returns for 1942 being transferred to the School age group.

The response to Boost doses was very good.

More regular treatment sessions at clinics and better facilities for treatment of children in the country areas have caused the improvement.

Tuberculosis: New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5	2							
15		1	2	1				
25	1	1		1				1
35					1			
45		1				1		
55								
65 & upwards								1
Totals ...	3	3	2	2	1	1	—	2

Appendix 1.

Causes of Death in the Rural District of Louth.

Causes of Death	1946	
	Males	Females
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	1
9. Influenza	—	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	1
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (male) and uterus (female)	—	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
15. Cancer of breast	—	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	11	10
17. Diabetes	—	2
18. Intra cranial vascular lesions	6	17
19. Heart disease	33	27
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	3	3
21. Bronchitis	4	2
22. Pneumonia	3	1
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	—
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	2
25. Diarrhoea under two years	2	—
26. Appendicitis	1	2
27. Other digestive diseases	4	3
28. Nephritis	1	—
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	1
31. Premature birth	1	2
32. Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	—	1
33. Suicide	—	—
34. Road traffic accidents	—	1
35. Other violent causes	2	1
36. All other causes	14	14
Totals	91	103

Appendix 2.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

13th December, 1946.

Report of Analysis of Effluents.

Received 3rd December, 1946, from Louth Rural District Council.

Mark 1. Manby Sewage Effluent. Mark 2. Binbrook Sewage Effluent.

These effluents contain per 100,000 parts ;—

	Manby	Binbrook
Total Solids dried at 100°C	66.00	74.00
Suspended Matter	4.00	5.00
Chlorides as chlorine	4.97	7.81
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.72	1.47
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.018	0.007
Free Ammonia	0.008	0.008
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.008	0.008
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 KMnO ₄		
in (a) 3 minutes	0.20	0.18
(b) 4 hours at 80° F	0.62	0.72
dH Value	7.70	7.50
5 days Biological Oxygen Demand		
at 65° F	1.40	1.80
5 days Incubator Test at 80° F	Stable	Stable

The suspended matter in both effluents exceeds the maximum limit of 3.0 parts per 100,000 but, apart from this both effluents are of very satisfactory chemical quality.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

WATER.

31st December, 1946

Report of Analysis of Binbrook and Grimoldby Waters.

Received 30th December, 1946 from Louth Rural District Council.

These waters contain per 100,000 parts :—

	Binbrook	Grimoldby
Total Solids dried at 180° C	38.00	35.00
Suspended Matter	absent	absent
Chlorides as chlorine	2.13	1.42
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate	0.64	absent
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite	absent	absent
Free Ammonia	0.0004	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004	0.0004

Temporary Hardness	16.00	16.00
Permanent Hardness	7.50	0.00
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 KMnO ₄		
in 4 hours 80° F	0.004	0.00
pH Value	7.10	7.90
Appearance	Clear & Bright	Clear and Bright
Odour	none	none
Taste and colour	normal	normal
Free chlorine	absent	absent
Sodium Carbonate equivalent to	— —	5.30

These water samples were, at the time of sampling, free from organic pollution and of suitable chemical quality for human consumption, domestic use and dairy purposes subject to their passing the recognised bacteriological examination.

(Signed) W. W. TAYLOR, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.,
1, Regent Street,
Nottingham.

